

I think it is very important that we continue trying to find the bipartisan effort, instead of the rhetoric we have heard previously tonight about how this party, the Republican Party, does not care about seniors. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The two major proposals that have come before this Congress in this session have been raising the income eligibility for seniors' earnings, and No. 2, the other proposal was to roll back in 1993 the unfair tax on Social Security. The Republican majority brought both those forward and they were both adopted in this House.

Now it is incumbent upon us to continue fighting for seniors to make sure Medicare provides the health care benefits they need, but removing the waste from the system, and that is the key feature here. We will make sure that we eliminate the waste, the fraud and abuse that has gone on for so many years and must end.

Part and parcel of our making sure that health care is improved for our seniors is that we provide FDA reform as well, to make sure that for all citizens we speed up the approval of life-saving, life-extending drugs and medical devices in this country.

□ 2345

This can and will be done under legislation that has been introduced in the Committee on Commerce under the leadership of JIM GREENWOOD as the task force chairman, the Commerce Committee chairman TOM BLILEY, the subcommittee chairman MIKE BILIRAKIS, and the three sponsors of the bill, Congressman KLUG, Congressman BARTON and Congressman BURR of North Carolina who has the pharmaceutical bill.

Together the bills dealing with pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and food will in fact move this country forward in such a way that the discoveries we have in the United States will be kept here. If we do not speed up the FDA reform process, then the discoveries for medical benefit and the jobs will go overseas. We cannot afford that as a Nation both from an employment point of view or from a health care point of view.

So I am pleased to see that the leadership is moving forward with FDA. What we are going to do is work with the Commissioner of FDA and the White House to make sure this legislation is bipartisan, is passed, and we do make a difference in the lives of the people we are representing.

Mr. Speaker, as I know from the hearing I had in my own district in Montgomery County, PA, in the county seat, we had victims who have diseases, patients who are waiting for a cure, a vaccine. They tell us that if we can speed up the approval of these drugs, they will live longer, others will have a chance to live longer and frankly their families are waiting for this kind of relief.

We need to fast track this legislation. I am very appreciative that the

individuals who brought forward the vehicle in the Committee on Commerce folded my legislation which was introduced last year into the majority bills and I am hopeful that together with other Congressmen and the Senate we will be able to get this passed in this session and make a real difference in people's lives.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HOUGHTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. QUINN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 12 noon today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. GUTKNECHT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 12:30 p.m. today, on account of attending his daughter's graduation.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FILNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. VENTO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EWING, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes on June 5.

Mr. DELAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHRYSLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FILNER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. LANTOS in three instances.

Mrs. MALONEY.

Mr. TORRICELLI.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mr. JACOBS.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Mrs. LINCOLN.

Mr. KANJORSKI in two instances.

Mr. RUSH.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. CONDIT.

Mr. SANDERS in six instances.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. MASCARA.

Mrs. SCHROEDER.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

Mr. OXLEY.

Mr. RIGGS.

Mr. QUINN.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

Mr. HORN in two instances.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. LIVINGSTON.

Mr. SHAW.

Mrs. ROUKEMA in two instances.

Mr. GEKAS.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH.

Mr. CRANE.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mr. ZIMMER.

Mr. CHRYSLER.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. HOSTETTLER.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

Mr. HALL of Texas.

Mr. MCINNIS.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington.

Mr. FOLEY.

Mr. VENTO.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 31, 1996, at 9 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, A B, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely; without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Members of the 104th Congress,